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30 April 1953

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MEMORANDUM FOR: General Counsel

ATTENTION : Mr. [REDACTED]

SUBJECT : Medical Support

REFERENCE : Memorandum to Assistant Director (Personnel) from Office of General Counsel, dated 3 April 1953, subject: "Payment of Medical Expenses of Employees Assigned to Permanent-Duty Stations in Foreign Countries"

1. The Medical Office is in support of the finding of the subject memorandum as pertaining to contained references a, b, and c, respectively.

2. Application of the finding to policy will serve to increase the scope of the medical program; however, additional authorities are required before the program can be considered adequate.

3. Existing medical problems requiring additional authorization for solution are as follows:

a. Medical care of dependents:

Present Agency policy encourages the sending of dependents to overseas stations. Depending on the area of assignment, this may be fortunate or otherwise. Certainly the niceties conducive to family living are available at many overseas stations permitting, not infrequently, a standard of living beyond normal custom. However, in a significant number of areas, such niceties are lacking and with them certain fundamentals. One such fundamental is the existence of adequate medical support.

Adequate medical support in certain areas is unavailable or is obtainable only as a result of expensive and lengthy transportation. In certain of these areas we have placed Agency medical personnel in support of the station. However, care of dependents in such instances is not authorized.

It is believed that a more realistic approach to the problem of medical care of dependents in hardship areas is required. The Medical Office is desirous of establishing the following procedures:

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(1) Medical screening of dependents:

Prior to movement to overseas areas where medical support is minimal or unavailable, dependents should be required to present medical evidence of freedom from disease requiring definitive medical care.

(2) Medical support:

In those areas where CIA medical facilities exist and other facilities are unavailable, medical care should be extended to dependents within the limits of the existing facilities.

(3) Transportation:

In those areas where suitable medical facilities do not exist, the excessive cost of transportation incurred in obtaining adequate medical care should be paid by the Agency.

b. Medical care of personnel overseas on temporary duty:

The financial hardships of overseas assignment are more concerned with the area and nature of assignment than with the duration of tour of duty. It is believed, therefore, that payment of costs of hospitalization should not be limited to PCS status, but should apply to overseas assignment in general.

c. Medical care of personnel stationed outside the Continental Limits of the United States but within its territories or possessions:

For the reasons stated above, it is believed that payment of costs of hospitalization should apply to overseas assignment in general.

4. It is requested that legislative authorities be reviewed for the purpose of advising this office as to the possible establishment of procedures as outlined.

MO/JRT:mam (30 Apr 1953)

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